

**Washington, DC** - Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement after the House failed to override the President's veto of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008. The bill contained language that would've prohibited the CIA from waterboarding, a technique that simulates drowning, during the interrogation of individuals in U.S. custody.

“When the President vetoed this legislation simply because it required the CIA to adhere to the Army Field Manual's ban of torture practices, he squandered an opportunity to exercise real leadership on what is a basic issue of human rights. Though our attempt to override his veto came up short, the fact remains that the continued use of the waterboarding technique contradicts the very principles our country represents.

We fight our enemies because we have fundamental differences when it comes to human rights, human decency and an array of guaranteed freedoms that make us the envy of the world. However, the practice of this type of torture diminishes our country's reputation as a moral world leader at a time when we should be cultivating relationships around the globe to fight terrorism.”

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